The first Workshop on Vedic Mathematics was held in March, 1988 at Jaipur and the second workshop is proposed to be held in October this year. Some selected teachers from Navodaya Vidyalayas, Central Schools and the National Council of Educational Research & Training were associated with the Workshop of March, 1988, and they will also be associated with the workshop which is to be held in October. After October 1988, three more workshops will be held on various aspects of Vedic Mathematics. These workshops will among other things, make recommendation as to the advisability of introducing Vedic Mathematics in the normal curricula of school education. Further action will depend on the recommendations of these Workshops.

National meet on education for women

2733. SHRIMATI RATAN KUMARI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) had organised in New Delhi in June, 1988 a two day national meet on Education for women's equality:

(b) if so, what was the outcome of the meeting:

(c) whether it is also fact that in the meeting the Director of National Institute of Educational Planning and Administration revealed that it would take 250 years for Rajasthan, 200 years for Uttar Pradesh and 150 years for Madhya Pradesh to attain full female literacy: and

(d) if so, what is Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI L.P. SHAHI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The National meet endorsed the recommendations/action plans made by the four Regional Workshops held earlier with the objective of promoting education for women's equality.

(c) Yes, Sir. The Director National Institute of Educational Planning and Administration (NIEPA) drew attention to the study made by researchers earlier that if the literacy continued to improve at the rate it had in 1971-81, then it would take about 14-25 decades to attain full female literacy in Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh.

(d) Besides a number of schemes initiated by Government, the action plans/recommendations finalised in the national meet organised by National Council of Educational Research and Training if properly implemented, will promote women's education.

Exclusion of drugs for maternal and child Health from National Health Programme

2734. SHRI DHARANIDHAR BASUMATARI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 157 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 27th July, 1988 and state:

(a) whether drugs for Maternal and Child Health have been omitted from the list of drugs required for National Health Programme:

(b) whether it is a fact that Iron preparations, calcium preparation and Folic Acid formulations have registered an increase of 100 per cent in their prices and the Minister of Health and Family Welfare is solely responsible therefor;

(c) what prompted the bureaucrats of his Ministry to violate their criteria and resort to inconsistencies to favour multinational companies;

(d) what are the market prices of Fersolate Tabs, Fesofer, Fefol, Dexorange; and

(e) by when the revised list of drugs required for the National Health Programme would be sent to the Department of chemicals?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (KUMARI SAROJ KHAPARDE): (a) to (c) The question of inclusion of drugs used for Maternal and Child Health Care Programme is under the active consideration of the Ministry of Health & F.W. for ending its recommendation to the Department of Chemicals.

The pricing of drugs including Iron, Calcium, and Folic Acid preparations are fixed by the 'Bureau of Industrial Cost and Pricing (BICP) in the Ministry of Industry and any unjustified price rise is reviewed by the Department of Chemicals for taking rectification measures.

The criteria for categorisation of drugs is not inseparable from the objectives to be attained under the principles outlined in the Measures for Rationalisation, Quality Control and Growth of Drugs & Pharmaceutical Industry in India, which is not price alone but also abundant availability of essential drugs. Any possible hinderance to this is examined for rectification.

(d) The existing Retail prices of various Iron preparations asked in this question are given below:

1 Fersolate tablets	Rs. 12.57 for 500 tabs.
2 Fefol . .	Rs. 8.64 for 15 Caps
3 Fersofor	Rs. 8.24 for 15 caps.
4 Dexorange .	Rs. 23.00 for 280 mt. bottle

(e) Drugs for certain National Health Programme are being evaluated for Category I price control recommendations to the Department of Chemicals stortly.

Study of cost benefit analysis technology for the manufacturing of Rifampicin

2735. SHRI DHARANIDHAR BASUMATARI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to refer to Unstarred Question 156 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 27th July, 1988 and state:

(a) whether production of Rifampicin from penultimates involves high technology and in view of the fact that the most of the production abroad is to meet the demand of India and other Asian Countries, whether any study of cost benefit analysis has been carried out;

(b) what additional incentives to change from category I to II would when return on bulk drug production is fixed;

(c) whether technology, production and incentives on drugs have been assigned to the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare and if so, since when; and

(d) what steps are being taken to withdraw the recommendation and fix responsibility for the lapse?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (KUMARI SAROJ KHAPARDE): (a) Production of Rifampicin by fermentation technique involves higher technology compared to its production by synthetic method from the penultimate stage. It is expected that the newer proposed of producing Rifampicin by fermentation technique would meet the growing demand for Rifampicin in India which would be cost-effective.

(b) Recategorisation from Category I to Category II does give incentive to basis manufacturers for their captive consumption.

(c) The Question of boosting production and incentives is intimately related to ensuring availability of